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**PRESS RELEASE**

**U.S. EMBASSY DHAKA HOSTS 2013 ALUMNI GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY**

**JULY 9, Dhaka --** The American Center of the U.S. Embassy, Dhaka hosted the U.S. Department of State Exchange Alumni General Assembly 2013 on Saturday, July 6. The event was held at Carnival Hall, Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC), Agargaon, Dhaka where hundreds of alumni of Department of State exchange programs were present. U.S. Ambassador to Bangladesh Dan Mozena was the Chief Guest, and he acknowledged the activities of more than 2,000 alumni of the U.S. State Department in Bangladesh, who include members of every discipline and every profession from every region of Bangladesh. Department of State alumni include teachers, doctors, professionals, journalists and business leaders who have participated in one of the many exchange programs provided by the U.S. Embassy Dhaka to Bangladeshis at all stages of career development.

Ambassador Mozena presented Alumni Excellence Awards to select State Department Exchange Alumni at the event. The awardees included Muhammad Ferdaus, Musammat Badrunnesa, Shamir Shehab, Kazi Nasrin Siddiqa, Mustasin Islam, Korvi Rakshand and Tanbir Siddiqui for their service to their communities, including activities such as promoting English language in madrassas, joining the Savar rescue operation, increasing volunteerism in Bangladesh and supporting civic education, human rights and good governance.

In his remarks, Ambassador Mozena noted that alumni have a leading role to play in building Sonar Bangla. “You are not just teachers, engineers, politicians, businessmen, artists, government officials, members of the military, doctors, technicians, specialists, home-keepers, and the list goes on ... you are something more; you are builders, great builders of bridges, builders of great bridges, so many bridges between America and Bangladesh ... strong,

powerful, effective bridges of understanding between the people of two wonderful nations,” he said.

Every year, the U.S. Embassy Dhaka, through the American Center, selects hundreds of promising individuals from almost every field to visit the United States for professional and academic exchanges that range from several weeks to a an entire degree program. The American Center currently offers more than 20 programs including opportunities for high school student exchanges, university placements for professors, and study tours for young professionals, politicians, journalists, and civil society leaders. To learn more about the Exchange Programs offered by the Department of State, please visit our Embassy website:

<http://dhaka.usembassy.gov/index.html> and our Facebook page

([www.facebook.com/bangladesh.usembassy](http://www.facebook.com/bangladesh.usembassy)).

After individuals are selected for and complete their exchange program, they join the worldwide network of Department of State Alumni.

Alumni work tirelessly to amplify their exchange experience to bring positive changes in their communities. Every year, many Bangladeshi Department of State Alumni receive local and global recognition for their contribution in different fields. Most notably, Nobel Prize winner Professor Muhammad Yunus, Magsaysay Award winner Angela Gomes and Rizwana Hasan, and Mosaic award winner Korvi Rakshand are all Department of State alumni. To learn more about the global network of Department of State Alumni, please visit [www.alumni.state.gov](http://www.alumni.state.gov).

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**GR/2013**